

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 AGR-05 AID-05 EB-07 AF-06 ARA-06 EA-06 EUR-12

NEA-09 COME-00 ISO-00 TRSE-00 SP-02 L-02 H-02 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 OIC-02

ABF-01 OMB-01 CIEP-01 HEW-02 ERDA-05 OES-03 SS-15

STR-01 CEA-01 /125 W

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P 141750Z MAR 75

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 60

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

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FODAG

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TAGS: EAGR, FAO, UNWFC

SUBJECT: 65TH FAO COUNCIL, MARCH 10-14, ROME

REF: ROME 3591

1. DEBATE ITEM 5, "EFFECT ON FAO OF RECOMMENDATIONS OF WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE, ETC.," RESUMED AFTERNOON SESSION, MARCH 13 WITH COUNCIL HEARING REPORT OF NEWLY APPOINTED EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, WORLD FOOD COUNCIL (WFC), JOHN HANNAH. LATTER'S GENERAL BACKGROUND SPEECH WELL PRESENTED AND ACKNOWLEDGED BY ALL AS INFORMATIVE. MOST NEWSWORTHY ITEM IN HANNAH STATEMENT WAS FACT WALDHEIM HAS AUTHORIZED HANNAH MOVE AHEAD ON CONSULTATION MAY 5 IN GENEVA OF COUNTRIES INTERESTED IN NEWLY PROPOSED INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT. (NOTE-HANNAH LATER ADVISED U.S. CONSULTATION COULD BE 2-3 DAY SESSION).

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2. CHAIRMAN THEN ATTEMPTED STEER DEBATE TO DECISIONS REQUIRED OF COUNCIL AT THIS SESSION AND SUGGESTED WAYS FAO COUNCIL COULD CONTRIBUTE TO FIRST WORLD FOOD COUNCIL (JUNE 23-27). THESE WERE (A) REPORT OF CURRENT DISCUSSIONS OF WORLD FOOD SITUATION, (B) REPORT OF AD HOC CONSULTATION ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY (MAY 19-23) AND (C) REPORT OF COMMISSION ON FERTILIZERS (JUNE 3-7). IN GENERAL COUNCIL AGREED ON MOST ITEMS ON WHICH DECISION REQUESTED. THESE WERE (A) CHAIRMAN OF FAO COUNCIL AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR WFC SHOULD BE INVITED MEETINGS OF RESPECTIVE ORGANS, (B) FAO SHOULD KEEP WFC FULLY INFORMED ON APPROPRIATE MATTERS WITH DG SENDING REPORTS DIRECTLY IF TIMING OF COUNCIL OR CONFERENCE SESSIONS WOULD DELAY TRANSMITTALS, (C) WFC SHOULD ITSELF CONSIDER MATTERS ON WHICH IT WISHED FAO COUNCIL TO OFFER ADVICE, AND (D) BUDGETARY PROPOSALS FOR FUNDING FAO'S STAFF INPUT TO JOINT SECRETARIAT (REFTEL).

3. CHIEF ITEM OF CONTENTION WAS PROPOSED ADG RANK FOR AZIZ OF FAO WHO WILL BE DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF WFC. THIS INDIRECTLY WAS CRITICISM OF UNDER SECRETARY-GENERAL RANK FOR HANNAH BUT THIS, OF COURSE, WAS MATTER OUTSIDE PROVINCE OF FAO COUNCIL. ARGUMENT WAS THAT APPROVING ADG RANK FOR AZIZ WOULD PUT PRESSURE ON UN GIVE UNDER SECRETARY-GENERAL STATUS TO HANNAH. RUNNING GENERALLY THROUGHOUT DEBATE WERE STATEMENTS THAT NEW YORK DECISIONS WERE TAKEN WITHOUT APPROPRIATE CONSULTATION WITH GOVERNMENTS. DESPITE COMPETENCE OF PERSONS CHOSEN, GOVERNMENTS SHOULD BE CONSULTED BEFORE SPECIFIC POSTS ARE ESTABLISHED AND BEFORE DECISIONS ARE TAKEN ON FILLING THEM. MEMBERS FELT UNDULY HIGH GRADES FOR THESE POSTS WOULD MOST CERTAINLY LEAD TO STRUCTURE GREATER THAN NECESSARY FOR WFC'S JOB. REPEATED OFTEN WAS CLAIM THAT WFC ITSELF SHOULD HAVE BEEN ALLOWED CHOOSE SECRETARIAT. BOTH DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES JOINED IN THESE COMMENTS.

4. WHAT WAS CLEAR, HOWEVER, WAS FACT ALL COUNTRIES WELCOMED WFC AND LOOKED FORWARD TO ITS JUNE SESSION. THE NETHERLANDS AND FRG ASKED THAT EACH FAO CONFERENCE (BIENNIAL) CONTAIN AN ITEM ON WFC SO FAO MEMBERS COULD INDICATED WHICH MATTERS THEY HOPED WFC WOULD HANDLE. LATTER CITED THIS AN ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT SINCE NON-UNIVERSALITY OF FAO PREVENTED IT FROM HANDLING CERTAIN MATTERS.

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5. WHILE EXTENSIVE DEBATE DID NOT DEVELOP ON SUBJECT, A NUMBER OF MEMBERS EXPRESSED FEAR OF DUPLICATION OR OVERLAP BETWEEN WFC AND FAO COUNCIL AND CONFERENCE. THIS SOMEWHAT OFFSET BY BOERMA-HANNAH ASSURANCES THAT SECRETARIATS WOULD WORK CLOSELY TOGETHER AND BY COMMENTS OF SOME MEMBERS TO EFFECT THAT A LARGE NUMBER OF COUNTRIES WILL BE PARTICIPATING IN BOTH BODIES. (20 OF 42 MEMBERS FAO COUNCIL WILL BE REP-

RESENTED ON 36-MEMBER WFC).

6. MEXICO AND PRC DREW ATTENTION TO DECEMBER 12 UN DECISION ON CHARTER OF ECONOMIC RIGHTS AND DUTIES AND STRESSED FACT NEW ECONOMIC ORDER MUST BE PUT INTO EFFECT. (NO DELEGATIONS COMMENTED THEREON.) MEXICAN DELEGATE WAS ONLY PERSON TO EXPRESS OUTRIGHT REGRET THAT NATIONALS OF A DEVELOPED COUNTRY (READ US) WERE CHOSEN FOR SUCH KEY POSITIONS IN IMPLEMENTING PROGRAMS IN WHICH DEVELOPING COUNTRIES HAD SUCH GREAT INTEREST. A NUMBER OF DELEGATES ALSO EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR MOVEMENT ON ESTABLISHING THE INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT FUND.7.

7. IN ITS STATEMENT U.S. THANKED HANNAH FOR REPORT AND PROGRESS TO DATE. AGREED WITH CHAIR ON ITEMS IN PARA 2 ABOVE AND SUPPORTED OTHER MEMBERS ON NEED FOR SMALL, EFFECTIVE SECRETARIAT. QUESTIONED LEVEL OF POSTS SUGGESTED FOR SENIOR STAFF AND SUGGESTED DEFERRAL OF CONSIDERATION. PUT GREAT STRESS ON FACT WFC MUST DETERMINE ITS OWN AGENDA AND PROGRAM OF WORK.

8. FINAL UNRESOLVED MATTER AT END FIRST ROUND OF RESUMED DEBATE WAS LEVEL OF POST FOR AZIZ. AFTER ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION, COMPROMISE SUGGESTION OF CANADA, AS AMENDED BY UK, WAS ACCEPTED. THIS BASICALLY WAS THAT BOERMA WILL AWAIT ACABQ CONSIDERATION OF THE APPROPRIATE RANK FOR HANNAH AND THEN PRESENT HIS PROPOSALS RE AZIZ TO THE FAO FINANCE COMMITTEE. LATTER WILL CONSIDER AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL. IN RESPONSE TO U.S. QUERY AS TO WHETHER SUCH DELAY COULD IMPAIR PREPARATIONS FOR WFC, BOERMA SAID ABSOLUTELY NO-FAO WOULD DO ITS JOB.

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